Infrastructure at tourist spots

1993. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has recently decided to upgrade the infrastructure facilities at tourist spots to give a boost to tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether smaller tourist spots have been identified where infrastructure facilities would be provided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and likely investments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Upgradation of infrastructure facilities at tourist spots is primarily undertaken by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism however, provides financial assistance for development of tourist destinations and circuits on the basis of project proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. During the current financial year the Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 59240.12 lakh for 248 projects upto February, 2008 for development and promotion of tourism in the country.

Medical tourism

1994. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Health is initiating any measures to promote medical tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also state whether the said steps include developing certain cites in the country as medical tourism hubs;

(c) if so, whether any of the cities of Andhra Pradesh have been earmarked for becoming one of the above hubs of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) A Task Force headed by Secretary (Health & Family Welfare) and officials of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and experts in medical field has been constituted for promoting healthcare tourism. Ministry of Tourism has requested all the State Tourism Departments to promote medical tourism through suitable packaging of identified best hospitals and price banding for various specific treatments.

Construction of Yatri Niwas

†1995. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas in different States, including Delhi, as on date location-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.